



Bureau of Land Management
Lake Havasu Field Office
2610 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406



Categorical Exclusion Assignment, Review and Approval				NEPA Number:		CX-AZ-330-5-006		
				Date:		November 24, 2004		
				Sub-activity:		1430 ER		
				Case/Project No:		AZA 32662		
Name of Project:		UNS Electric Inc.			Type:	Fiber Optic Cable Right-of-Way		
Location (legal description)				See Page 5	Section:	See Page 5		
Applicant (s): UNS Electric, Inc., P.O. Box 3099, Kingman, AZ 86402-3099								

Description of Proposed Action:

UNS Electric Inc. filed an application on January 8, 2004, to install a fiber optic cable for a redundant communication path from the North Havasu Substation to the Black Mesa Substation, on the existing 69 kV transmission line. The proposed project consists of hanging the fiber optic communications cable onto the existing steel and wooden monopoles that support the 69-kV electric transmission line from the North Havasu Substation to the Black Mesa Substation. The fiber optic cable will be installed within portions of the existing UNS Electric Inc., Right-of-Way (R/W) AZA 693 and AZA 030794 and are located in the vicinity of Lake Havasu City, AZ. The proposed fiber optic cable is a total of 13 miles long, of which 3.5 miles occur on BLM land, which is 18,480 ft. in length x 100 ft. in width and approximately 42.42 acres.

UNS Electric Inc. presented this proposal to Western Area Power Administration (Western), in order to comply with Western's requirement of the redundant communication path to the existing 69 kV electric transmission line.

The term of the Right-of-Way grant will expire on September 22, 2034 (same expiration date as the UNS R/W AZA 693).

Categorical Exclusion Reference 516 D, 6. Appendix 5.4:	X (X)	(BLM Categorical Exclusions List)
516 D, 6, Appendix 5.4: E. (12); Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.		

Department of the Interior 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 provides a review of the following categorical exclusion criteria to determine if exceptions apply to this project:	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects.		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.		X
2.8 Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.		X
2.10 Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X

The proposed project conforms to the following BLM Land Use Plan:

- Yuma District RMP approved in 1986 and as amended.

List existing NEPA documents relevant to this action:

- SWCA Environmental Consultants – Prepared the Biological Evaluation and Class III Cultural Resources Survey, Dated November, 2004.

Describe site specific consultation and coordination with other agencies and affected interests:

- Sarah C. Murray, Archaeologist BLM/LHFO
- Christine Bates, Wildlife Biologist, BLM/LHFO

Technical Review: Critical Elements	May Be Affected		If affected, mitigation assigned	Signature Name/Title	Date
	Yes	No			
Air Quality		X			
				<i>Specialist</i>	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		X			
				<i>Jill Miller-Allert</i>	
Cultural Resources/ Paleontological Resources		X			
				<i>Sarah C Murray</i>	
Environmental Justice		X			
				<i>Specialist</i>	
Farm Lands (Prime or Unique)		X			
				<i>Specialist</i>	
Floodplain		X			
				<i>Specialist</i>	
Native American Religious Concerns		X			
				<i>Sarah C Murray</i>	
Threatened or Endangered Species		X			
				<i>Christine Bates</i>	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X			
				<i>Cathy Wolff-White</i>	
Water Quality, Drinking or Ground		X			
				<i>Cory Bodman</i>	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X			
				<i>Christine Bates</i>	
Wild and Scenic Rivers		X			
				<i>Jill Miller-Allert</i>	
Wilderness		X			
				<i>Jill Miller-Allert</i>	
Invasive & Non Native Weeds		X			
				<i>Christine Bates</i>	
Lands/Realty		X			
				<i>Maria Rosalez</i>	
Law Enforcement		X			
				<i>Brian Pittman</i>	
Operations/Engineering Review		X			
				<i>Mike Henderson</i>	
Recreation		X			
				<i>Myron McCoy</i>	
Visual Resources Management		X			
				<i>Myron McCoy</i>	
Soils/Minerals		X			
				<i>Amanda Dodson</i>	
Wild Horses/ Burros		X			
				<i>Cindy Barnes</i>	
Range		X			
				<i>Cindy Barnes</i>	
Health & Safety		X			
				<i>Bill Parry</i>	

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

SIGNATURES:			
Prepared by:	/s/ Maria Rosalez	Date:	11-30-04
	Project Lead		
Review by:	/s/ Catherine L. Wolff-White	Date:	11-30-06
	P&EC		
Review by:	/s/ Bernadette Lovato	Date:	12-20-04
	Acting Supervisor		

Decision: *Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu Field Office, has determined that this decision or action conforms to the land use plan, that none of the 10 exceptions apply, and that therefore neither an EA nor EIS is needed, The decision or action will be implemented subject to the stipulations attached to the authorizing document.*

Approved By:	/s/ Robert M. Henderson	Date:	12-20-04
	Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office acting		

Stipulations:

- Standard Stipulations (See Attachment #1)

Compliance and Monitoring assignment of responsibility (Program or Employee):

- Maria Rosalez, Realty Specialist, BLM/LHFO

Attachments:

- Attachment #1 – Stipulations
- Attachment #2 – Map
- Attachment #3 - Photos

Legal Land Description (LLD)

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 13 N., R. 19 W.,
 Sec. 19, N2N2S2;
 Sec. 20, N2N2SE;
 Sec. 21, NENENESE;
 Sec. 22, lots 2, 4, 5, SWSW;
 Sec. 26, W2SW, SESW;
 Sec. 27, W2NE, SENE, NENW, NESE;
 Sec. 35, N2SE, SESE, SWNE, N2NW, SENW;
 Sec. 36, SWSW;
T. 13 N., R. 20 W.,
 Sec. 24, N2SW, N2SE;
T. 14 N., R. 20 W.,
 Sec. 10, SW.

Total acreage is approximately 42.42 acres.

Standard Stipulations

1. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the right-of-way (ROW) within the authorized limits of the existing AZA 693 and AZA 030794 ROW and amendments.
2. Any cultural (historic/prehistoric site or object) and/or paleontological resource (fossil remains of plants or animals) discovered during the proposed action shall immediately be reported to the authorized officer. All operations in the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientifically important paleontological values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorizing official after consulting with the holder.
3. If a Desert Tortoise is endangered by any activity, that activity should cease until the Desert Tortoise moves out of harm's way on its own accord. A certified/qualified handler must only handle a Desert Tortoise that needs to be handled to prevent injury or death. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoise is prohibited by Arizona State Law. Any sighting of desert tortoise should be immediately reported to the Lake Havasu Field Office Wildlife Biologist, (928) 505 1200.
4. After completion of the project, trenches, pits, and other features in which tortoise could be entrapped or entangled, shall be filled in, covered, or otherwise modified so they are no longer a hazard to desert tortoises or other wildlife species.
5. State protected plant species (e.g. all cactus, ocotillo, palo verde, mesquite trees, ironwood, and smoketree) shall be avoided if possible. The holder shall report all State protected species destroyed or damaged to the Lake Havasu Field Office Wildlife Biologist.
6. All migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the local humane society, (928) 855 7479.
7. Trash, rubbish, and other construction debris shall be removed from the site and disposed of at a designated sanitary landfill, and the grounds shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner at all times.
8. The holder will meet Federal, State and local emissions standards for air quality.
9. If UNS Electric Inc., replaces any of the power poles, the new poles will comply with the raptor protection requirements in effect at the time of the replacement and all vegetation must be avoided.